

**First Term Exam**

**Part one: Reading (14 points)****A/ Comprehension (07 pts)**

*Read the text carefully then do the following activities.*

The Persian Empire, also known as the Achaemenid Empire, lasted from approximately 559 B.C.E. to 331 B.C.E. At its height, it encompassed the areas of modern-day Iran, Egypt, Turkey, and parts of Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Persian Empire became the world's first superpower. It united under one government three important sites of early human civilizations in the ancient world: Mesopotamia, Egypt's Nile Valley and India's Indus Valley.

The Persian Empire emerged under the leadership of Cyrus the Great who was called the "shah". Cyrus was known for his mercy and cultural tolerance toward conquered people. He allowed the Jews, who had been captives in Babylon for over fifty years to return to the holy city of El-Quds in Palestine, instead of turning them into slaves. He returned sacred items that were stolen from them and allowed the rebuilding of their temple.

Cyrus's relative Darius I took the throne after him and built the empire to its greatest height. Darius recognized that such a large area needed to be properly structured and organized in order to function efficiently. He set up a system of provinces and governors, and the first postal service that spanned the empire in order to establish widespread communication between three continents—Africa, Asia and Europe.

The Persian Empire began to decline under the reign of Darius's son who depleted the royal treasury with an unsuccessful campaign to invade Greece and continued with irresponsible spending upon returning home. Persia was eventually conquered by the Roman -Alexander the Great- in 334 B.C.E.

[www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia](http://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia)

**1 Say whether the following statements are True or False.**

- a) The first Persian Kingdom lasted about two centuries.
- b) The Persian Empire preceded the Median Kingdom.
- c) The Jews were persecuted and imprisoned in Babylon.
- d) Cyrus the Great initiated the establishment of communication network.

**2 Identify the paragraphs in which the following ideas are mentioned.**

- a) Intercontinental ways were built to ease communication.
- b) The Persian Kingdom embraced diverse religions and cultures.
- c) Persia succeeded in gathering the world's major power states.

**3 Answer the following questions according to the text.**

- a) Where did the Achaemenid Kingdom rise?
- b) What did the Shah do with the Jews?
- c) What made such a great empire decline?

**4 Find what or who the underlined words in the text refer to.**

- a- it (§1)                      b- them ( §2 )                      c- him (§3)

**5 Give a title to the text.**

**B/ Text Exploration (07 pts)**

**1** Find in the text words or phrases that are closest in meaning to the following.

a- peak (§1) = .....      b- prisoners of war (§2) = .....      c-covered (§3) = .....

**2** Complete the following table as shown in the example.

	<i>Verb</i>	<i>Noun</i>	<i>Adjective</i>
<i>Example</i>	<i>To conquer</i>	<i>Conquest</i>	<i>Conquerable</i>
	.....	.....	Known
	.....	Communication	.....
	To empower	.....	.....

**3** Rewrite sentence (b) so that it means the same as (a). Make the necessary changes.

1-a) Cyrus the Great defeated the neighbouring kingdoms then joined them under one rule.

b) After .....

2-a) It was a Persian habit that kings begin constructing their own tombs while they were still alive.

b) Persian kings .....

3-a) Although the Persians had effective and conciliatory leadership, their empire did not last.

b) Despite .....

4-a) If you visit Pakistan , you will find the legacy of the Persian Empire ruins such as Taxila.

b) Provided .....

**4** Classify the following words according to the pronunciation of their final /ed/.

*Tolerated    conquered    allowed    practised*

<i>/t/</i>	<i>/d/</i>	<i>/Id/</i>

**5** Fill in the gaps with words from the list given.

rebel –religious-- local -- vote- traditions -- conquering

Cyrus was a successful military commander. He left local rulers in place after ...1....a region, and he allowed the ...2.....population to continue practising their preferred religious....3.... These policies reduced the chance that they would ...4...against him.

**PART TWO: WRITTEN EXPRESSION**

**(06 points)**

Choose ONE of the following topics.

**Topic One:** *Despite their wise leaders and vast lands, the Persians declined to never rise up again because of many reasons. Use the following notes to write a composition of about 80 to 100 words on the causes of the decline of the Persian Kingdom.*

- widespread instability
- administrative inexperience
- several rebellions especially in Egypt
- spread of corruption and bureaucracy

**Topic Two :** *A young Instagramer uploaded a video saying that honesty doesn't pay. So why do we have to be honest? Write a comment of about 80 to 120 words to denounce this erroneous claim and show the virtues of honesty in life.*

**Wish you the best of luck**